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SAN PABLO MAN CHARGED IN BANK FRAUD SCHEME

United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a Federal Grand Jury in Sacramento returned an indictment charging HUGH DARNEL BOOKER, 33, of San Pablo, California, with two counts of mail fraud and one count of bank fraud.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney James P. Arguelles, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment charges that during the period of April through December of 2004, BOOKER was part of a scheme to defraud both the Golden One Credit Union, and individuals who were the victims of identity theft. Specifically, the indictment charges that BOOKER and his co-participants fraudulently applied to the Golden One Credit Union in Sacramento for a \$250,000 home equity loan in the name of a victim whose identity had been wrongfully obtained. As part of the scheme, the Golden One Credit Union was directed to wire the proceeds of the loan from Sacramento directly into BOOKER's bank account. When informed by the Golden One Credit Union that it would not wire the proceeds directly into a third party account, BOOKER and his co-participants directed the credit union to issue the loan proceeds in two checks for \$240,000 and \$10,000. Both of these checks were to be made payable to BOOKER, and arrangements were made for them to be picked up at a Golden One Credit Union branch in Los Angeles. BOOKER was arrested by FBI Special Agents after he attempted to take delivery of the bogus checks outside of the credit union branch in Los Angeles.

The charges in the indictment are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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